

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3282

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 0586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, ML

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN OFFICE ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 031073, STATE 030983

1. I SAW FONOFF SECRETARY GENERAL, SEYDOU TRAORE, FEBRUARY 11. AFTER EMPHASIZING THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA HAS NOT CHANGED STATE 031073, I REVIEWED OUR POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE 030983. I EMPHASIZED OUR VIEW THAT THE MPLA CANNOT ESTABLISH ITSELF AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA WITHOUT EITHER COMING TO TERMS WITH FNLA AND UNITA, OR TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN COMMUNIST ARMY AND THE PROSPECT THAT ANGOLA MAY BE CONDEMNED TO A LONG PERIOD OF GUERRILLA WARFARE. I SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE AND THE HOPE THAT AFRICA SHOULD REMAIN FREE OF GREAT POWER INTERFERENCE AND THE ANGOLAN SITUATION SHOULD BE SETTLED IN THE AFRICAN FAMILY. I STRESSED THAT WE WERE NOT OPPOSED TO THE MPLA AS SUCH, AND THAT WE BELIEVE THAT IT MUST, OF COURSE, PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ANY ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE OPPOSED, HOWEVER, TO THE MPLA'S DECISION TO CALL FOR FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, AND THAT OUR VIEW IS THAT ALL FOREIGN FORCES SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THAT COUNTRY.

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2. TRAORE REPLIED THAT WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT THE MPLA

WAS A MINORITY IN ANGOLA, THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI COULD SEE NO POSSIBILITY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AT THIS TIME, AND THAT IN IT'S VIEW THE MPLA REPRESENTED THE BEST POSSIBILITY FOR STABILIZING THE COUNTRY. IN RESPONSE TO MY STATEMENT THAT THE MPLA COULD NOT ESTABLISH ITSELF AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, HE SAID ADMITTEDLY IT WAS A POLITICAL GAMBLE, BUT IT WAS ONE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI FELT WORTH TAKING. HE SAID THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA HAD BEEN MISREPRESENTED, IN POINT OF FACT THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES, WELL BEFORE ANGOLA INDEPENDENCE, HAD ASKED IN THE U.N. FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INCLUDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE STRUGGLE FOR ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE. THE SOVIET UNION HAD RESPONDED TO THIS APPEAL, THE PRESENT SITUATION SIMPLY REPRESENTS AN INTENSIFICATION OF THAT ASSISTANCE WHICH HAD BEEN ASKED FOR BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES, AND COULD NOT, THEREFORE, PROPERLY BE CLASSIFIED AS INTERVENTION. HE SAID THAT CERTAINLY AMERICAN ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOME AND HE URGED US PROMPTLY TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE MPLA. HE INSISTED THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES WOULD ENSURE THAT THE CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA WOULD NOT BE MISUSED IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA (I REFRAINED FROM ASKING HIM HOW). I REITERATED OUR POSITION THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA, THAT WE WERE NOT OPPOSED TO THE MPLA AS SUCH, BUT RATHER ITS POLICY OF RELYING ON FOREIGN FORCES, AND OUR VIEW OF THE NECESSITY FOR AN ACCOMMODATION AMONG THE PARTIES THERE.

3. COMMENT: I CLEARLY MADE NO IMPRESSION ON TRAORE BUT THE CONVERSATION MAY HAVE HELPED DISPELL ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT OUR POSITION.
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